

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

11	JESSE WASHINGTON,)	No. C 10-0250 LHK (PR)
12	Plaintiff,)	ORDER OF SERVICE;
13	v.)	DIRECTING DEFENDANTS TO
14	D. SANDOVAL, D. SUNQUIST, K.)	FILE DISPOSITIVE MOTION
15	TOWNSEND, A. MARTINEZ, J.)	OR NOTICE REGARDING
16	CAROPRESO,)	SUCH MOTION
17	Defendants.)	

Plaintiff, a state prisoner proceeding *pro se*, filed a civil rights complaint pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Plaintiff is granted leave to proceed in forma pauperis in a separate order. For the reasons stated below, the Court orders service on the Defendants.

DISCUSSION

A. Standard of Review

A federal court must conduct a preliminary screening in any case in which a prisoner seeks redress from a governmental entity or officer or employee of a governmental entity. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(a). In its review, the court must identify any cognizable claims and dismiss any claims that are frivolous, malicious, fail to state a claim upon which relief may be granted or seek monetary relief from a defendant who is immune from such relief. *See* 28 U.S.C. § 1915A(b)(1), (2). *Pro se* pleadings must, however, be liberally construed. *See* *Balistreri v.*

1 *Pacifica Police Dep't.*, 901 F.2d 696, 699 (9th Cir. 1988).

2 To state a claim under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, a plaintiff must allege two essential elements:
 3 (1) that a right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States was violated, and (2) that
 4 the alleged violation was committed by a person acting under the color of state law. *See West v.*
 5 *Atkins*, 487 U.S. 42, 48 (1988).

6 B. Plaintiff's Claims

7 Plaintiff alleges that he is a permanently disabled person with osteoarthritis and
 8 degenerating disc disease. On June 10, 2008, Plaintiff was housed at Salinas Valley State Prison
 9 ("SVSP"), and he asked his cellmate why their cell floor was covered in water. His cellmate
 10 responded that the in-cell toilet chase had been leaking for several weeks and he had made
 11 Defendants Sandoval and Sunquist aware of the problem to no avail. Thereafter, Plaintiff also
 12 informed Sandoval and Sunquist about the leaking problem and asked them to fix it. On July 20,
 13 2008, after nothing had been done to fix the toilet leak, Plaintiff spoke with K. Townsend, one of
 14 the prison plumbers about the leak. On two separate days, Townsend and his co-worker
 15 attempted to vacuum up the accumulated water but the toilet kept leaking. On August 4, 2008,
 16 Plaintiff awoke in the middle of the night and slipped and fell due to the accumulated water. As
 17 a result, Plaintiff suffered a fractured jaw and injured his lower back. Liberally construed,
 18 Plaintiff raises a cognizable claim that Sandoval, Sunquist, and Townsend were deliberately
 19 indifferent to his safety needs.

20 Plaintiff also alleges that on June 16, 2008, he filed a inmate grievance form against
 21 Sandoval claiming that Sandoval had failed to timely provide him with an appropriate mattress
 22 as a reasonable accommodation. After receiving an appropriate mattress, Plaintiff was subjected
 23 to harassment and retaliatory acts by Sandoval. On September 18, 2008, Plaintiff filed an inmate
 24 grievance form against J. Caropreso and A. Martinez. Plaintiff complained that he wanted to
 25 return to general population from administrative segregation but Caropreso and Martinez
 26 delayed their investigation which needed to occur prior to any such move. Caropreso and
 27 Martinez threatened Plaintiff against filing a grievance against them. Soon after Plaintiff filed
 28 his inmate grievance form against Caropreso and Martinez, they issued a lock-up order for

1 Plaintiff stating that Plaintiff had inmate enemies in general population and therefore, could not
 2 return. Liberally construed, Plaintiff raises a cognizable claim that Sandoval, Caropreso, and
 3 Martinez violated his right to be free from retaliation.

4 Plaintiff also names “John Doe #1” as a defendant in this action. Although the use of
 5 “John Doe” to identify a defendant is not favored in the Ninth Circuit, *see Gillespie v. Civiletti*,
 6 629 F.2d 637, 642 (9th Cir. 1980), situations may arise where the identity of alleged defendants
 7 cannot be known prior to the filing of a complaint. In such circumstances, the plaintiff should be
 8 given an opportunity through discovery to identify the unknown defendants, unless it is clear that
 9 discovery would not uncover their identities or that the complaint should be dismissed on other
 10 grounds. *See id.* Accordingly, John Doe #1 is DISMISSED without prejudice. Should Plaintiff
 11 discover his identity in a timely manner, he may move to add them to the complaint at a later
 12 date.

13 CONCLUSION

14 For the foregoing reasons, the court hereby orders as follows:

15 1. The Clerk shall issue a summons and the United States Marshal shall serve,
 16 without prepayment of fees, copies of the complaint in this matter (docket no. 1), all attachments
 17 thereto, and copies of this order on CORRECTIONAL OFFICER D. SANDOVAL,
 18 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER D. SUNQUIST, CORRECTIONAL PLUMBER K. TOWNSEND,
 19 CORRECTIONAL OFFICER A. MARTINEZ, and CORRECTIONAL OFFICER J.
 20 CAROPRESO at **Salinas Valley State Prison in Salinas, California**. The Clerk shall also serve
 21 a copy of this order on Plaintiff and mail a courtesy copy of the complaint to the California
 22 Attorney General’s Office.

23 2. No later than **ninety (90) days** from the date of this order, Defendants shall file a
 24 motion for summary judgment or other dispositive motion with respect to the cognizable claims
 25 in the complaint.

26 a. If Defendants elect to file a motion to dismiss on the grounds that Plaintiff
 27 failed to exhaust his available administrative remedies as required by 42 U.S.C. § 1997e(a),
 28 defendants shall do so in an unenumerated Rule 12(b) motion pursuant to *Wyatt v. Terhune*, 315

1 F.3d 1108, 1119-20 (9th Cir. 2003).

2 b. Any motion for summary judgment shall be supported by adequate factual
 3 documentation and shall conform in all respects to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil
 4 Procedure. **Defendants are advised that summary judgment cannot be granted, nor**
 5 **qualified immunity found, if material facts are in dispute. If Defendants are of the opinion**
 6 **that this case cannot be resolved by summary judgment, they shall so inform the court**
 7 **prior to the date the summary judgment motion is due.**

8 3. Plaintiff's opposition to the dispositive motion shall be filed with the court and
 9 served on defendants no later than **thirty (30) days** from the date defendant's motion is filed.

10 a. In the event Defendants file an unenumerated motion to dismiss under
 11 Rule 12(b), Plaintiff is hereby cautioned as follows:¹

12 The defendants have made a motion to dismiss pursuant to Rule 12(b) of
 13 the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, on the ground you have not exhausted your
 14 administrative remedies. The motion will, if granted, result in the dismissal of
 15 your case. When a party you are suing makes a motion to dismiss for failure to
 16 exhaust, and that motion is properly supported by declarations (or other sworn
 17 testimony) and/or documents, you may not simply rely on what your complaint
 18 says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in declarations, depositions, answers
 19 to interrogatories, or documents, that contradict the facts shown in the defendant's
 20 declarations and documents and show that you have in fact exhausted your
 21 claims. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, the motion to
 22 dismiss, if appropriate, may be granted and the case dismissed.

23 b. In the event Defendants file a motion for summary judgment, the
 24 Ninth Circuit has held that the following notice should be given to plaintiffs:

25 The defendants have made a motion for summary judgment by which
 26 they seek to have your case dismissed. A motion for summary judgment under
 27 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure will, if granted, end your case.

28 Rule 56 tells you what you must do in order to oppose a motion for
 29 summary judgment. Generally, summary judgment must be granted when there is
 30 no genuine issue of material fact--that is, if there is no real dispute about any fact
 31 that would affect the result of your case, the party who asked for summary
 32 judgment is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, which will end your case.
 33 When a party you are suing makes a motion for summary judgment that is
 34 properly supported by declarations (or other sworn testimony), you cannot simply
 35 rely on what your complaint says. Instead, you must set out specific facts in

27 ¹ The following notice is adapted from the summary judgment notice to be given to pro se
 28 prisoners as set forth in *Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). See
Wyatt v. Terhune, 315 F.3d at 1120 n.14.

1 declarations, depositions, answers to interrogatories, or authenticated documents,
 2 as provided in Rule 56(e), that contradict the facts shown in the defendants'
 3 declarations and documents and show that there is a genuine issue of material fact
 4 for trial. If you do not submit your own evidence in opposition, summary
 judgment, if appropriate, may be entered against you. If summary judgment is
 granted in favor of defendants, your case will be dismissed and there will be no
 trial.

5 *See Rand v. Rowland*, 154 F.3d 952, 963 (9th Cir. 1998) (en banc). Plaintiff is advised to read
 6 Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and *Celotex Corp. v. Catrett*, 477 U.S. 317
 7 (1986) (holding party opposing summary judgment must come forward with evidence showing
 8 triable issues of material fact on every essential element of his claim). Plaintiff is cautioned that
 9 failure to file an opposition to defendant's motion for summary judgment may be deemed to be a
 10 consent by plaintiff to the granting of the motion, and granting of judgment against plaintiff
 11 without a trial. *See Ghazali v. Moran*, 46 F.3d 52, 53-54 (9th Cir. 1995) (per curiam); *Brydges v.*
 12 *Lewis*, 18 F.3d 651, 653 (9th Cir. 1994).

13 4. Defendants shall file a reply brief no later than **fifteen (15) days** after Plaintiff's
 14 opposition is filed.

15 5. The motion shall be deemed submitted as of the date the reply brief is due. No
 16 hearing will be held on the motion unless the court so orders at a later date.

17 6. All communications by the Plaintiff with the court must be served on Defendants,
 18 or Defendants' counsel once counsel has been designated, by mailing a true copy of the
 19 document to Defendant or Defendants' counsel.

20 7. Discovery may be taken in accordance with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
 21 No further court order is required before the parties may conduct discovery.

22 For Plaintiff's information, the proper manner of promulgating discovery is to send
 23 demands for documents or interrogatories (questions asking for specific, factual responses)
 24 directly to Defendants' counsel. *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 33-34. The scope of discovery is limited to
 25 matters "relevant to the claim or defense of any party . . ." *See* Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(1).
 26 Discovery may be further limited by court order if "(i) the discovery sought is unreasonably
 27 cumulative or duplicative, or is obtainable from some other source that is more convenient, less
 28 burdensome, or less expensive; (ii) the party seeking discovery has had ample opportunity by

1 discovery in the action to obtain the information sought; or (iii) the burden or expense of the
2 proposed discovery outweighs its likely benefit.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(b)(2). In order to comply
3 with the requirements of Rule 26, before deciding to promulgate discovery plaintiff may find it
4 to his benefit to wait until defendants have filed a dispositive motion which could include some
5 or all of the discovery plaintiff might seek. In addition, no motion to compel will be considered
6 by the Court unless the meet-and-confer requirement of Rule 37(a)(2)(B) and N.D. Cal. Local
7 Rule 37-1 has been satisfied. Because Plaintiff is detained, he is not required to meet and confer
8 with Defendants in person. Rather, if his discovery requests are denied and he intends to seek a
9 motion to compel he must send a letter to Defendants to that effect, offering them one last
10 opportunity to provide him with the sought-after information.

11 8. It is Plaintiff’s responsibility to prosecute this case. Plaintiff must keep the Court
12 and all parties informed of any change of address and must comply with the Court’s orders in a
13 timely fashion. Failure to do so may result in the dismissal of this action for failure to prosecute
14 pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 41(b).

15 IT IS SO ORDERED.

16 DATED: 8/11/10


17 LUCY H. KOH
United States District Judge

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